

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
351 North Mountain View Avenue, Third Floor ♦ San Bernardino, CA 92415-0010  
(909) 387-9146 ♦ Fax (909) 387-6228

JIM LINDLEY, M.P.A.  
Public Health Director

TRUDY RAYMUNDO  
Acting Assistant Director of Public Health

MAXWELL OHIKHUARE, M.D.  
Health Officer

CONTACT: Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D.  
Health Officer  
(909) 387-6218

January 13, 2010  
PR # 10-03

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **It's Up to YOU...Stop the Spread of the H1N1 Flu**

### **San Bernardino County takes steps to further promote H1N1 Flu vaccination and prevention messages**

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County Celebrates National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) January 10-16, 2010 by continuing to promote H1N1 vaccination and prevention messages throughout the County. Over 31,000 County residents have received the H1N1 flu vaccine through clinics, school and community sites coordinated by the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health.

Public Health Director Jim Lindley stated that "Public Health staff conducted 52 mass vaccination clinics throughout the County, and coordinated the distribution of H1N1 influenza vaccine to approximately 510 local health care providers, as of the end of December." He added that, "We've been significantly busier than in past years, in an effort to protect as many people as possible against the H1N1 flu."

During the Fiscal Year 2008-2009, Public Health vaccinated 6,415 residents during the entire flu season. Since fall 2009, the Department gave nearly 8,200 seasonal flu vaccinations. The combined total of 39,200 H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccinations, is more than a 600 percent increase from the prior year.

The Public Health Department has planned 37 more school-based mass H1N1 vaccinations clinics through February, 2010 and is currently working with Community and Faith-Based organizations to promote H1N1 vaccinations. The vaccine is also available at the Public Health clinics. Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., Health Officer emphasized that "the H1N1 virus is still causing sickness and even death, so vaccination is the best protection." This is the beginning of the flu season, and no one can predict if the H1N1 virus will cause a new wave of infection into the Spring months. In order to prevent the likelihood of this, as well as further illness within the population, vaccinations are recommended.

In order to promote vaccinations and H1N1 prevention messages, the Department initiated an 11 week extensive mass media campaign throughout the County last month, using radio, newspapers and website banner advertisements. Posters are displayed at 18 bus shelter locations, and H1N1 prevention messages are advertised at 131 screens in local movie theaters.

There is an ample supply of the H1N1 flu vaccine for anyone who wants it. To find a vaccination clinic site near you, and for the most up-to-date information on H1N1 or seasonal influenza, visit the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health website at [www.sbcounty.gov/dph](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph), or call 1 (800) 782-4264.

###

Board of Supervisors  
BRAD MITZELFELT.....First District      NEIL DERRY.....Third District  
PAUL BIANE.....Second District      GARY C. OVITT.....Fourth District  
JOSIE GONZALES.....Fifth District